

wine consultant, Gordon W. Murchie, a friend and industry spokesman, for presenting to the American public the proper image of the U.S. wine industry as being a part of our Nation's history, culture, and commerce. Public education that promotes "responsible moderate consumption of wine as part of a healthy adult diet and life style" is the message the U.S. wine industry and I wish to convey.

I am sure the Mount Vernon event will help further promulgate the message that wine is a beverage to be enjoyed in moderation with food, friends and in all manners of social occasions, but never abused.

FACTS AND FIGURES

NATIONAL RANKING

12th among farm wine and commercial grape growing states.

6th among vinifera wine growing states.

	1979	1997	Percent increase
Growth:			
No. of wineries	6	49	700
Acreage	286	1500	424

1996 Production: 1,763 tons of wine grapes producing 282,080 gallons of wine.

VITICULTURAL REGIONS

Virginia has six specifically designated grape growing (viticultural) regions: Monticello, Northern Neck, George Washington Birthplace, Rocky Knob, Shenandoah Valley, Eastern Shore, and North Fork of the Roanoke.

MAJOR VARIETIES

Vinifera varieties: Chardonnay, White Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Gewurztraminer, Cabernet Franc, Sauvignon Blanc, and Merlot.

Major French hybrid varieties: Seyval, Vidal Blanc, Villiard Blanc, and Marechal Foch.

Major American varieties: Concord, Delaware, and Niagara.

Variety	Acreage	Percent total acreage	Percent per ton
Vinifera	1140	76	\$1,100 to \$1,200.
French hybrid	285	19	\$500 to \$600.
American	75	5	\$400 to \$500.

Number of Vineyards in 1997—140.

1996 SALES

Cases and retail sales: 191,849; \$23,021,880—9.5% increase over 1995.

DISTRIBUTION OF VIRGINIA WINES

In Virginia: Virginia wine is sold in retail outlets, restaurants, through festivals and special events, and direct at individual wineries.

Other: Distributed primarily in the eastern United States. Virginia wines are also found in major cities abroad as well as American cities such as Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Tourism: Through winery tours and tastings, the Virginia wine industry attracts over 500,000 visitors annually.

Reasons for Virginia Wine Industry Growth: Favorable climate for growing grapes; Institutional support, especially from Division of Tourism and the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services; Research and technology support from VPI&SU; Strong wine marketing program; An increasing regional and national awareness of quality of Virginia wines; and Dedication of Virginia wine industry to improving the quality and viability of its products.

A SALUTE TO OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join others in the nation who this week are recognizing our law enforcement officers for their role in protecting their respective communities. I would like to particularly recognize those officers of the sheriffs and police departments of Texas' district 30 which I represent, for I personally know of the distinction and valor with which they carry out their daily duties. Over the years, we have witnessed many of our communities—particularly in urban areas—undergo drastic change. With the scourges of crack, poverty and family dysfunction fraying the social fabric of our communities, law enforcement officers have been called upon to assume a greater responsibility for the safety of our neighborhoods.

Much has been said about the tensions that exist between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve; however, I know that in communities such as Dallas and Irving, TX, the police departments are reaching out to neighborhoods residents to establish partnerships in fighting crime and increasing community safety. Many of these policemen and policewoman are unsung heroes, who daily climb into their police cruisers, walk their neighborhood beats or ride their bicycles on patrol, each day knowing that they risk death or serious injury. While communities may be able to function without hostile corporate takeover specialist or sitcom stars, no community could function without a dedicated force of law enforcement personnel. It says something about our priorities as a society that—in spirit of its indispensability—law enforcement is among the lowest paid professions.

I would also be remiss if I did not also recognize the husbands, wives, and children of our law enforcement officers, the ones who stay at home each day not knowing if their loved ones will be facing a life-threatening situation. Should anyone doubt the dangers of the job, they need only visit the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC, and read the names of those who have given their lives in service to their communities. The families of our peace officers deserve recognition for their steadfast support of their spouse or parent who is often under-appreciated and underpaid. We all should take the opportunity to let our law enforcement officers and their families know that their service and sacrifices are appreciated. As a Member of Congress, I pledge to continue to work to enact legislation that aids our peace officers and law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duties. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion I offer my heartfelt salute to our Nation's police officers, sheriff's deputies, and highway patrol officers.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTINE O'DONNELL

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, It is with the greatest of pleasure

that I acknowledge the retirement of an outstanding woman who has given over 30 years of her life to public service. Justine O'Donnell began her distinguished career in Washington, in 1960, where she worked for my uncle, President John F. Kennedy, until his untimely death in 1963.

Following her years at the White House, Justine worked tirelessly on behalf of Democratic ideals. In 1980 she returned to Washington to work for my uncle, Senator TED KENNEDY, in his bid for the Presidency. After a stint with the General Services Administration, Justine served as an ombudsperson for then Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services Phil Johnston, and later as the director of client services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts until 1990. In this last position, Justine had an opportunity to display her deep and genuine concern for the plight of some of the neediest citizens in the Commonwealth. Her compassion for this same population did not diminish as she finished out the last 5 years of her career in public service at the Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance.

Rounding out her record of devoted public service, Justine has been very active in community affairs. Justine played an important role in the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, and she continues today as a member of the Friends of the Kennedy Library.

I would like to join with Justine's family and friends as they gather this Thursday, May 15, to commemorate her efforts on behalf of her fellow citizens, and to extend to her my best wishes for the future.

95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday, May 20, marks the 95th anniversary since the island of Cuba gained its independence. The history of that beautiful nation has been measured, in large part, by the struggle of its people to overcome tyrannies that have attempted to rule over the island—first the Spanish crown, and today, another destructive dictatorship, that of Fidel Castro.

Under the Castro dictatorship, the people of the island enjoy no semblance of human rights or civil rights. Dissidents, independent journalists, and human rights activists are routinely harassed, arrested, and imprisoned.

Others are murdered by the Castro Communist elite that allows no opposition to its repressive policies. Many of the names of those who have been subject to the torturous reign of the Castro regime, men and women, black and white, may never be known.

The immorality of the Castro dictatorship is equaled by the willingness by many of our European allies, Canada, and Mexico to trade with the Castro regime despite them knowing that it only serves to strengthen his grip on power.

As we approach the 96th anniversary of the first time the Cuban flag flew alone over Cuba, let us remember that only 90 miles from the greatest democracy on earth, 11 million Cubans yearn for the freedoms we in the United States take for granted.